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# Foreign

# CROPS AND MARKETS



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FLAXSEED (Page 398)

MILK & DAIRY PRODUCTS (Page 402)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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L A T E   N E W S

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The Government of Argentina on April 18 established a cotton export quota of 115,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) from the crop now being harvested. This is the first time that any cotton has been permitted shipment from the country since the export ban was placed in effect in May, 1951 following the small 1950-51 crop of 482,000 bales. The current season's production is estimated at 600,000 bales or more, and is considered sufficient to supply domestic mill requirements as well as some surplus for export.

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The Paraguayan Government on March 29 directed the Bank of Paraguay to purchase all cotton from the gins offered for sale at prices which were to be determined early in April.

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The Government of India on April 29 established an additional export quota of 61,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) of short staple cotton, including 41,000 bales of Bengals and 20,000 bales of Central Indian Oomra type not exceeding 5/8 inch in staple. This increased the export quota for the 1951-52 season to a total of 205,000 bales, of which more than half, or 123,000 bales, consists of Bengal-type cotton.

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**FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS**

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Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

## WORLD FLAXSEED SUPPLY SMALL

World flaxseed production in 1951 is now believed to have been the smallest since 1946. The crop is placed at 124.2 million bushels on the basis of the latest information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, compared with 134.2 million in 1950 and the prewar average of 133.5 million bushels.

The loss of 10.6 million bushels from the preliminary estimate (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 1, 1951) is explained largely by the sharp reduction in the estimate of the Argentine crop. The estimates of the harvests in the United States and Canada have been revised downward slightly, but this loss has been counterbalanced largely by the increases in the estimates for Uruguay, total Africa, and Europe.

The decrease in world production of almost 10 million bushels from 1950 likewise is largely the result of the short Argentine crop. Decreases in the United States and India were offset by expanded output in Canada, Uruguay, Europe, Africa, and possibly the Soviet Union.

Since 1947 the United States has been the world's largest producer of flaxseed. This position was held by Argentina in prewar years with the United States ranking fourth in importance. In 1951 these positions were reversed with the United States first and Argentina dropping to fourth place. On the basis of meager information, it appears that the Soviet Union, in recent years particularly, has held the second position as in prewar years, and India, in 1951 as in the prewar period, ranked third. These 4 countries in the last few years have accounted for roughly 70 to 80 percent of world production compared with about 90 percent prewar.

United States production of flaxseed in 1951 is estimated at 33.8 million bushels, about 16 percent below the 40.2 million bushels harvested in 1950. Lower yields from wet weather and other unfavorable maturing and harvesting conditions are the principal factors in the decline. In addition, however, acreage planted was slightly less than in 1950 and abandonment was slightly greater.

Unofficial sources now believe that Argentina's flaxseed harvest was a maximum of 11.8 million bushels from plantings of only 1.6 million acres. This represents approximately one-half the 1950 crop and about one-fifth of the prewar average. Drought is reported to have been a major factor in the decrease.

On the basis of an estimated supply for 1952 of 13.8 million bushels, the quantity available in Argentina for crushing, export, and carryout is estimated at 9.6 million bushels, compared with 25.6 million in 1951. Flaxseed exports have ceased and shipment of linseed oil is relatively small.



FLAXSEED: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries and the world, average 1935-39, annual 1948-1951 1/

Continent and country	Harvested acreage				Yield per acre				Production			
	Average 1935-39	1948	1949	1950	Average 1935-39	1948	1949	1950	Average 1935-39	1948	1949	1950
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>												
Canada.....	307	1,880	322	560	1,112	4.9	7.1	8.4	1,508	17,721	2,284	4,686
Mexico.....	16	145	134	119	131	6.9	13.2	11.9	111	1,911	1,982	1,417
United States.....	1,451	4,973	5,048	4,090	3,904	7.6	11.0	9.3	10,991	54,803	42,976	40,246
Total.....	1,774	6,998	5,504	4,769	5,147	-	-	-	12,610	74,435	47,242	46,340
<b>EUROPE</b>												
Austria 3/.....	5	8	6	4	-	7.1	-	-	36	-	-	-
Belgium 3/.....	75	74	64	60	85	8.9	7.9	8.3	664	-	627	500
Bulgaria.....	3/	-	-	-	-	6.5	-	-	52	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia 2/.....	35	5/	66	-	-	6.9	5.7	6.4	243	376	421	-
Denmark.....	45	30	36	-	25	-	16.5	18.4	-	737	552	575
Finland 3/.....	9	10	13	11	-	-	9.0	12.2	-	86	160	110
France 2/.....	92	78	93	98	122	5.0	5.0	5.5	464	387	508	553
Germany:												
Western Germany 2/.....	45	64	32	19	20	10.6	9.6	11.4	476	622	359	240
Other Germany 3/.....	23	80	-	-	-	11.5	9.4	-	260	750	-	-
Greece.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	98	118	79
Hungary 2/.....	28	23	5/	41	-	9.5	8.9	-	283	256	-	-
Italy 2/.....	16	48	51	45	44	12.6	9.8	10.2	202	472	451	465
Netherlands 3/.....	42	48	48	47	74	13.0	12.6	10.9	546	606	696	509
Poland 2/.....	158	203	269	300	-	10.0	9.5	9.0	1,578	1,927	2,464	2,720
Rumania 3/.....	42	37	-	-	-	6.5	-	-	275	-	-	-
Sweden.....	-	54	110	88	106	-	18.9	18.0	-	1,012	2,047	1,581
United Kingdom.....	2	86	58	38	27	-	16.3	15.8	-	1,400	920	600
Yugoslavia 3/.....	33	28	33	32	30	1.6	2.7	2.9	52	70	89	45
Total (excluding U.S.S.R. & ...)	630	975	1,065	1,035	1,100	-	-	-	5,300	9,650	10,840	9,720
<b>U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 3/.....</b>												
						5.1	4.4	-	32,115	19,290	-	-

[illegible]

World total.....	19,557:	20,150:	20,030:	19,310:	19,120:	-	-	-	-	133,500:	148,211:	141,210:	134,176:	124,210:
<p>1/ Harvests of the Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere countries in 1951 is combined with the Southern Hemisphere harvest which begins late in 1951 and ends early in 1952. Estimates do not include China where annual production probably varies from 1 to 2 million bushels. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Acreage includes area for fiber. 4/ Average of less than 5 years. 5/ Sown area. 6/ Flax and hemp. 7/ Yield per acre calculated on the basis of the yield of seed from acreage harvested for seed only. 8/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries. 9/ Officially reported figures plus Indian official estimates for unreported tracts except in the years 1942-51 included, when no estimates for unreported tracts were available. 10/ Prior to 1948 figures for India include Pakistan. 11/ 1935 only. 12/ Less than 500 acres and 500 bushels.</p>														

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

Unfavorable weather in some major producing areas was the principal cause of the decline in India from a crop of 16.4 million bushels in 1950 to 15.4 million last year.

With regard to the smaller areas of flaxseed production, the harvests in 1951 were larger, in most instances, than in 1950. Canada's crop was double that of the previous year while Uruguay's was the largest outturn since 1945. Production in Europe is estimated to have increased around 8 percent and in Africa about 30 percent.

Thus, with surplus availabilities from the major exporting countries other than the United States and Canada greatly reduced in relation to import requirements, demands for United States flaxseed may increase substantially.

Prospects for increased production of flaxseed in 1952 are not particularly favorable. Farmers in the United States expect to plant a slightly smaller acreage this year than in 1951, according to March 1 reports. Prospective planted acreage is estimated at 3,935,000 acres, or 4 percent below the acreage planted last year. Actual plantings will be governed to a great extent by price relationships and weather at planting time. On the basis of this acreage and a per unit yield, by States, equal to the 1946-50 average, a crop of over 34 million bushels of flaxseed could be produced. This would represent a slight increase from 1951.

In Argentina, goals for agricultural recovery announced recently by the Government include the restoration of flaxseed plantings to 3.95 million acres annually, near the 1947 level but only one-half the prewar acreage. A moderate increase in plantings is likely this season, probably to 2.5 million acres, but it may be several years before the goal can be reached. Factors adversely affecting flaxseed are the heavy weed growth induced by this crop and the disproportionate relation of flaxseed to wheat prices in the official price schedule.

India's planted acreage, according to the first official estimate, is down 6 percent from the corresponding estimate of the previous year. A rough indication of India's 1952 crop has been reported at a maximum of 15 million bushels.

Consequently, with no indications of a significant expansion in any of the 3 major producing areas of the free world, the 1952 flaxseed harvest can hardly be expected to show any decided improvement from the 1951 outturn.

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.



WORLD CONSUMPTION TRENDS IN MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS 1/

Consumption of fluid milk and dairy products (whole milk equivalent basis) per person in principal countries showed some gain in 1950 over 1949 but the quantity is still 5 percent below the prewar level. Notwithstanding an increase of almost 8 percent in total milk production in these same countries, the increase in population has lowered the per capita intake.

The lower per capita consumption on a fat basis represents a decline of nearly one-fourth in butter consumption whereas fluid milk and cheese consumption has risen resulting in actually an increase in consumption of milk solids-not-fat. Thus, despite the lower rate of total milk and dairy products consumption as expressed in whole milk equivalent, consumers in most of these countries obtained greater nutritive value from dairy products in postwar than in prewar years. These countries are expected to continue the trend toward utilizing more of their milk supplies in whole milk products and less as butter according to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Aside from the general increase in milk production in this group of 18 countries the most consistent shift in patterns has been toward the production and/or consumption of more cheese. Only in Austria and Greece was less cheese produced or consumed and here basic disruptions altered the pattern. While the per capita consumption of butter is now significantly lower than prewar in a number of important consuming countries, notably the United States, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, that pattern is broken by the reverse situation in Belgium, Ireland, Sweden and New Zealand.--by Louis M. Smith, based in part on U.S. Foreign Service Reports.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

(Tables on following pages)

Milk and Dairy Products: Total milk production and whole milk equivalent of fluid milk and dairy products consumed, total and per capita, principal countries, prewar average, 1949 and 1950 preliminary

Countries	Total milk production			Whole milk equivalent of fluid milk and dairy products consumed			Per capita
	:Prewar 1/	: 1949	: 1950	:Prewar 1/	: 1949	: 1950	
	: Million	: Million	: Million	: Million	: Million	: Million	:
	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: Pounds:Pounds
Canada	: 15,789	: 16,843	: 16,437	: 13,537	: 14,634	: 15,076	: 1,090 : 1,095: 1,100
United States	: 105,416	: 122,071	: 123,381	: 102,940	: 113,076	: 117,206	: 799 : 761: 776
Austria	: 5,602	: 4,079	: 4,354	: 4,901	: 3,454	: 3,644	: 721 : 487: 514
Belgium	: 6,790	: 6,816	: 6,944	: 6,411	: 8,010	: 8,069	: 763 : 911: 908
Czechoslovakia	: 9,828	: 5,768	: 6,500	: 8,957	: 2/	: 2/	: 627 : 2/ : 2/
Denmark	: 11,684	: 10,789	: 11,931	: 3,049	: 2,426	: 3/ 2,528	: 823 : 577: 3/ 588
Finland	: 5,587	: 4,630	: 5,291	: 4,883	: 4,214	: 4,604	: 1,357 : 1,054: 1,124
France	: 33,047	: 30,671	: 34,079	: 25,807	: 4/ 25,343	: 27,097	: 628 : 4/ 603: 642
Germany, Western	: 33,071	: 5/ 23,225	: 5/ 28,880	: 30,296	: 5/ 24,331	: 5/ 31,524	: 788 : 5/ 496: 5/ 630
Greece 6/	: 1,462	: 1,127	: 1,282	: 1,496	: 1,249	: 1,423	: 219 : 160: 180
Ireland	: 5,090	: 5,068	: 5,296	: 3,339	: 4,089	: 4,167	: 1,151 : 1,358: 1,388
Italy 7/	: 13,750	: 14,330	: 14,509	: 9,717	: 11,593	: 11,884	: 223 : 253: 257
Netherlands	: 11,180	: 11,803	: 12,617	: 6,801	: 6,696	: 6,577	: 800 : 671: 651
Norway	: 2,954	: 3,417	: 3,582	: 2,682	: 3,037	: 3,001	: 925 : 963: 988
Sweden	: 10,238	: 10,245	: 10,825	: 7,898	: 9,440	: 9,506	: 1,261 : 1,336: 1,356
Switzerland	: 5,852	: 5,142	: 5,534	: 4,116	: 4,535	: 3/ 4,598	: 987 : 3/ 980: 3/ 987
United Kingdom	: 18,424	: 21,552	: 23,160	: 45,859	: 40,192	: 44,317	: 951 : 798: 875
Australia 5/	: 11,780	: 12,968	: 12,966	: 6,721	: 8,537	: 7,998	: 974 : 1,081: 975
New Zealand 5/	: 10,176	: 10,135	: 10,416	: 2,035	: 3/ 2,361	: 3/ 2,580	: 1,277 : 3/ 1,253: 3/ 1,358

1/ Prewar averages are for years 1933/34-1937/38 for Czechoslovakia, Greece and Norway, 1934-37 for Austria, 1935-38 for Western Germany, 1935-39 for Canada, and 1934-38 for others. 2/ Not available. 3/ Does not include canned and dried milk. 4/ Does not include dried milk. 5/ Year ending June 30. 6/ Includes the milk of cows, buffalos, sheep and goats. 7/ Includes the milk of cows, sheep and goats.

Milk and Dairy Products Consumption: Whole milk equivalent of total fluid milk and dairy products consumed, product weights of fluid milk, butter, and cheese consumed, per capita, selected countries, prewar average 1/ 1949 and 1950 preliminary

Countries	:Whole milk equivalent of			: Fluid milk,			: Butter,			: Cheese,		
	:fluid milk and dairy pro-			: product weight			: product weight			: product weight		
	:duets consumed			: consumed			: consumed			: consumed		
	Prewar	1949	1950	Prewar	1949	1950	Prewar	1949	1950	Prewar	1949	1950
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Canada	1,090	1,095	1,100	430	426	425	31.0	23.5	23.5	3.8	4.6	4.6
United States	799	761	776	338	384	385	16.9	10.4	10.7	5.3	7.2	7.7
Austria	721	487	514	2/ 466	262	289	6.5	7.8	7.3	9.3	3.1	4.1
Belgium	763	911	908	171	237	219	20.4	22.1	23.5	8.1	8.5	9.0
Czechoslovakia	627	3/	3/	270	3/	3/	12.8	3/	3/	7.4	3/	3/
Denmark	823	577	4/ 588	369	369	361	19.4	9.3	10.5	13.8	14.8	10.0
Finland	1,357	1,054	1,124	710	568	604	26.9	20.0	22.0	3.1	3.2	2.7
France	628	5/ 603	642	193	200	198	12.8	12.2	13.0	14.3	12.7	14.5
Germany, Western 6/	788	7/ 496	7/ 630	266	7/ 149	7/ 210	17.6	7/ 10.8	7/ 13.7	7.7	7/ 7.7	7.8
Greece 8/	219	160	180	2/ 88	2/ 79	85	2.1	1.4	1.5	18.9	11.6	13.6
Ireland	1,151	1,358	1,388	324	350	366	33.4	40.0	40.3	0.7	1.3	2.0
Italy 9/	223	253	257	80	105	106	2.6	2.8	2.8	11.2	11.1	11.3
Netherlands	800	671	651	272	369	337	15.2	6.7	6.2	15.9	14.5	13.2
Norway	925	963	988	387	551	563	15.2	11.7	10.8	16.8	13.7	17.2
Sweden	1,261	1,336	1,356	521	518	511	22.1	31.3	31.1	14.8	17.6	17.4
Switzerland	987	4/ 980	4/ 987	542	524	511	14.0	12.3	13.3	17.9	20.3	20.4
United Kingdom	951	798	875	218	340	347	24.8	13.5	16.5	9.0	9.9	10.1
Australia 7/	974	1,081	975	234	327	320	31.4	28.9	24.8	3.9	6.7	6.6
New Zealand 7/	1,277	4/ 1,253	4/ 1,358	423	474	499	39.4	40.0	44.2	5.0	7.4	7.9

1/ Prewar averages are for year 1934-37 for Austria and Belgium, 1933/34-1937/38 for Czechoslovakia, Greece and Norway, 1935-38 for Western Germany, 1935-39 for Canada, and 1934-38 generally for others. 2/ Includes canned and dried milk in terms of fluid milk. 3/ Not available. 4/ Does not include canned and dried milk. 5/ Does not include dried milk. 6/ Excludes the Saar and Western Sectors of Berlin in prewar years and excludes the Saar but includes the Western Sectors of Berlin in 1949 and 1950. 7/ Year ending June 30. 8/ Includes the milk of cows, buffalos, sheep and goats. 9/ Includes the milk of cows, sheep, and goats.



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C O M M O D I T Y   D E V E L O P M E N T S

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TOBACCOMADAGASCAR'S TOBACCO CROP LOWER; EXPORTS  
IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION HIGHER

Madagascar's 1951-52 tobacco crop is primarily estimated at about 27 percent below the 1950-51 outturn, according to J. J. Lebrun, American Consulate, Tannarive. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1951 were 53 percent above 1950. Imports of all tobacco during 1951 were 39 percent above 1950. Consumption of tobacco products during 1951 were 12 percent above 1950.

The country's 1951-52 leaf crop is tentatively estimated at 8.6 million pounds from 13,183 acres. This compares with 11.7 million pounds from 21,139 acres during 1950-51.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1951 totaled 9.6 million pounds as compared with only 6.3 million pounds in 1950. France took 99 percent of all 1951 exports. The remaining 1 percent went to Reunion Island.

Imports of tobacco and tobacco products during 1951 totaled 975,755 pounds as compared with 701,841 pounds during 1950. Of total imports, cigarettes constituted 84 percent or 814,280 pounds; smoking tobacco, 10 percent, or 109,569 pounds; leaf tobacco, 5 percent, or 44,092 pounds; cigars, 1 percent, or 6,393 pounds; and chewing tobacco, only 881 pounds.

Consumption of tobacco during 1951 is estimated at almost 2.3 million pounds as compared with 2.0 million pounds in 1950. Chewing tobacco constituted 1,167,962 pounds of the total tobacco consumed in 1951; cigarettes constituted 852,056 pounds; smoking tobacco, 233,363 pounds; and cigars, 730 pounds.

EGYPT'S TOBACCO IMPORTS  
DECREASE SLIGHTLY

Egypt's 1951 unmanufactured tobacco imports were slightly below the 1950 total, according to N. Lardicos, American Embassy, Cairo.

Leaf imports during 1951 totaled 26.9 million pounds as compared with 27.2 million pounds in 1950. Turkey, the most important 1951 leaf source supplied 8.0 million pounds. The United States ranked second, with 3.9 million pounds; Greece, third, with 3.9; India, fourth, with 2.2 million pounds; the Soviet Union, fifth, with 1.3 million pounds; and the Union of South Africa, sixth, with 1.0 million pounds. Other countries supplying Egypt with leaf tobacco during 1951 included Lebanon, Yugoslavia, British East Equatorial Africa, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and China. In addition, Egypt imported 710,756 pounds of tobac, 1,015,783 pounds of cigarettes, 32,128 pounds of smoking tobacco, and 13,900 pounds of cigars.



Egyptian exports of tobacco products are relatively insignificant. However, during 1951, a total of 87,650 pounds of cigarettes were exported. This compares with 69,379 pounds in 1950.

### GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

#### JAPAN INCREASES

#### RICE IMPORTS <sup>1/</sup>

The imports of milled rice into Japan in 1951 of approximately 1,700 million pounds reflected a further increase in rice imports since the end of World War II. The figure for the 1951 Japanese fiscal year (April 1, 1951-March 31, 1952) will be about the same. There was no rice imported in fiscal year 1946; 7 million pounds (3,000 metric tons) were imported in 1947; 95 million pounds (43,000 tons) in 1948; 653 million pounds (296,000 tons) in 1949, and 1,481 million pounds (672,000 tons) in 1950.

Sixty-one percent of the 1951 imports originated in Burma and Thailand. Egypt was the next principal source of supply, followed by Taiwan, United States, Italy, China, Brazil, and Belgian Congo, in order of volume imported.

#### JAPAN: Imports of milled rice, by country of origin, 1951

Country of origin	January - March	April - June	July - August	September - December	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Egypt.....	112	164	111	2	389
Burma.....	22	111	144	50	327
Thailand.....	186	251	156	117	710
China.....	12	2	0	0	14
Taiwan.....	63	47	0	66	176
Congo.....	0	3	1	0	4
Brazil.....	0	0	0	13	13
United States.....	0	0	0	56	56
Italy.....	0	0	0	19	19
Total.....	395	578	412	323	1,708

Ministry of Agriculture, Japan.

The official estimate places the 1951 rice crop of Japan at 24,774 million pounds of rough rice (17,342 million pounds milled), a reduction of around 1,670 million pounds rough (1,170 million pounds milled). The crop there is harvested from August to November.

<sup>1/</sup> A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

The Japanese Government has announced the intention to import 2,200 million pounds (1,000,000 metric tons) of rice in fiscal year 1952. Procurement of that quantity is admitted to be difficult because of the present limited export availabilities in the principal countries of supply. The Government is placing great emphasis on maximum import procurement, however, and seems prepared to pay premium prices if necessary.

One reason for this is the growing demand for rice occasioned by the natural increase in population; at the present rate of population growth, about 250 million pounds (115,000 tons) of rice are required to feed the annual population gain at the official ration level. In satisfying the increasing demand for rice, therefore, the Government looks chiefly to imports. Rice imports are still far below the level of prewar years when the population was much smaller. In 1938 Japan imported 5,050 million pounds (2,290,000 tons) of rice, including procurement from the colonies.

#### CANADIAN GRAIN STOCKS LARGER

Stocks of Canadian grain in all positions as of March 31, 1952 were well above those of a year earlier and were also above the average for the 10 years ended 1950, according to The Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Estimated stocks are based on reports of The Board of Grain Commissioners, from returns by mill operators, and the Bureau's annual March-end survey of grain held on farms.

Estimating farm stocks has presented unusual problems in the Prairie Provinces this year, because of the large quantities of unthreshed grain remaining on farms. Whereas March 31 farm stocks in normal years represent threshed grain only, with such a large proportion of grain still unthreshed this year, inclusion of estimates for that grain was necessary. The outcome of the spring harvesting of grain carried through the winter in the field, will therefore influence final estimates of farm stocks.

Total stocks of wheat were estimated at 466 million bushels, compared with 352 million a year earlier and the 10 year average of 421 million. The estimate of 252 million bushels for farm stocks this year represents 54 percent of total wheat stocks compared with March 1951 farm stocks, which were 46 percent of total stocks on that date.

Farm stocks of wheat in the Prairie Provinces were estimated at 246 million bushels, about 98 percent of the total. Of that amount, Saskatchewan accounted for 163 million bushels, Alberta 69 million, and Manitoba 14 million. Seed for the 1952 crop and requirements for livestock and poultry feed up to July 31, the end of the crop year, will be taken from the farm stocks. The balance will be available for delivery during the remainder of the season or for carry-over into the new crop year.

Of the 209 million bushels in Canadian off-farm positions, about 108 million were held in country elevators, interior private and mill elevators, and interior mill elevators. Stocks in Fort William-Port Arthur and Pacific Coast elevators were about 43 million and 12

(Text concluded on Page 409)

Canada: Grain stocks in all positions, March 31, 1952, with comparisons

Position	Wheat	Oats 1/	Barley	Rye
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
<u>In Canada</u>				
On farms . . . . .	251,915:	277,273:	144,413:	6,956
Country elevators . . . . .	91,733:	21,665:	26,044:	2,640
Interior private and mill elevators . . . . .	5,846:	844:	2,430:	15
Interior terminal elevators . . . . .	10,446:	15:	764:	6
Vancouver-New Westminster elevators . . . . .	11,340:	398:	809:	1
Prince Rupert elevator . . . . .	487:	-	-	-
Churchill elevator . . . . .	1,997:	2/	-	-
Fort William-Port Arthur elevators . . . . .	42,757:	10,567:	13,154:	2,648
In transit rail . . . . .	20,493:	5,368:	4,951:	352
Eastern elevators . . . . .	3/ 20,970:	1,635:	3,514:	701
Eastern mills . . . . .	2,496:	529:	209:	2/
Western mills . . . . .	336:	100:	40:	10
Total . . . . .	460,816:	318,394:	196,328:	13,329
Canadian grain in the United States . . . . .	5,099:	430:	-	499
Total Canadian grain in North America . . . . .	465,915:	318,824:	196,328:	13,828
<u>March 31, 1950 stocks</u>				
In Canada . . . . .	352,506:	228,552:	110,731:	9,354
In the United States . . . . .	370:	1,306:	314:	1,575
Total in North America . . . . .	352,876:	229,858:	111,045:	10,929
1941-1950 average . . . . .	420,961:	194,561:	81,632:	9,088

1/ As reported in bushels of 34 pounds.

2/ Less than 500 bushels.

3/ Includes 1.7 million bushels in storage afloat.

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks other than on farms and in mills are compiled by the Board of Grain Commissioners as of March 27.



million bushels respectively. The remaining 46 million bushels were either in transit or held in mill bins in eastern elevators and at Churchill. Stocks of Canadian wheat in United States positions amounted to 5 million bushels, with the greater part held for drying in bond in Duluth elevators.

Stocks of oats on March 31 were estimated at 319 million bushels, compared with 230 million on that date of 1951. The 1941-1950 average was 195 million bushels. Farm stocks of 277 million bushels this year accounted for 87 percent of the estimated total stocks. Of the 41 million bushels in commercial position in Canada, slightly more than half was in country elevators and about a quarter was in lakehead terminals.

Barley stocks were placed at 196 million bushels, which was 77 percent above the 1951 figure and about 140 percent above the 10-year average. Farm stocks amounted to 73 percent of the total. Rye stocks of 13.8 million bushels were slightly larger than last year and above average.

#### PANAMA TO IMPORT RICE IN MAY

In order to avert an anticipated rice shortage, the Panamanian Cabinet has authorized the Banco Agro-Pecuario e Industrial (Livestock and Industrial Bank) to purchase in Ecuador 10,000 quintals (1,014,000 pounds) of milled rice at the price of \$9.00 per quintal (\$8.87 per 100 pounds) for delivery in Panama early in May.

Proposals by 3 local business firms to furnish the rice were rejected by the Bank because the prices quoted were too high and none of the bidders could guarantee delivery within the desired period.

Panamanian rice production, having increased steadily since the beginning of World War II, in 1950-51 reached approximately 195 million pounds of rough rice (127 million pounds milled). In 1950, therefore, only 30,000 pounds of rice were imported. In 1951-52, however, domestic production dropped to around 190 million pounds (123 million pounds). Rice imports in 1951 totaled 7,811,000 pounds, the largest quantity since 1948. Panama during the 1935-36/39-40 period produced an average of around 72 million pounds of rough rice (47 million pounds), and imported an average of 13 million pounds of milled rice annually.

The price paid to the producers at country mills in 1949 was set by the Livestock and Industrial Bank at \$6.00 per quintal of rough rice (\$5.92 per 100 pounds). The Bank announced in April 1950 that for the coming harvest it would pay only \$4.00 (\$3.94 per 100 pounds). This measure reportedly has had an adverse effect on the continued expansion of Panama's rice crop.



# CUBA INCREASES RICE PRODUCTION <sup>1/</sup>

Largely through the use of improved methods of cultivation, Cuba in the last 10 years has about trebled its production of rice. Part of this marked increase in rice output has been due to an extension of acreage planted in that crop. The 1951 rice acreage of 133,000 acres was about twice that of 10 years ago. Intensive cultivation of much of this area, however, with the installation of irrigation facilities and the use of agricultural machinery, has resulted in the production of per-acre yields also about double those that were harvested formerly.

Cuba therefore in 1951 produced 256 million pounds of rough rice (166 million pounds milled), an increase of 53 percent from the 167 million pounds (109 million pounds) in 1950. During the 1935-39 period production averaged 43 million pounds of rough rice (28 million pounds). Plans for 1952 are for a rice acreage of 137,000 acres, an increase of 4,000 acres from 1951. Should weather be normal, around 300 million pounds of rough rice (190 million pounds milled) are expected to be harvested.

CUBA: Rice acreage and production, averages 1935-44, annual 1945-51, and forecast 1952

Year	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production	
			Rough	In terms of milled
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average:				
1935-39	45	956	43	28
1940-44	69	1,029	71	46
Annual:				
1945	100	1,050	105	68
1946	105	1,048	110	72
1947	120	1,075	129	84
1948	123	1,098	135	83
1949	120	1,117	134	87
1950	126	1,325	167	109
1951	133	1,925	256	166
1952 <sup>1/</sup>	137	2,131	292	190

<sup>1/</sup> Forecast of crop to be planted in April and harvested principally in November.

Source: American Embassy, Habana.

<sup>1/</sup> A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

VENEZUELAN RICE PRICE  
ADVANCES SHARPLY

The retail price of rice in April has risen sharply in Caracas, Venezuela. On April 21, rice was retailing at as high as 27 cents a pound (Bs. 2.00 per kilogram), a price about twice that of 14 cents a pound (Bs. 1.00 per kilogram) early in the month.

This price rise appears to be without explanation, since part of last year's rice crop is still being milled. Current rice prices in the United States are considerably below this level. These high prices in Venezuela therefore may be only temporary, as imports can be made if necessary.

The Banco Agricola y Pecuario has a monopoly on Venezuela's rice production and marketing. It purchases and largely handles the local crop, and has a complete monopoly on rice imports.

ARGENTINA TO ADMIX  
MILLET WITH WHEAT FLOUR

The Argentine government has instructed millers to add up to 10 percent of millet to wheat flour, according to recent reports. This is being done to help offset the expected deficiency in flour supplies for domestic consumption during the current season. The small wheat crop of 85 million bushels falls somewhat short of normal domestic requirements of about 95 million bushels for milling alone.

Supplies are small as a result of small carry-over, as well as reduced production. Earlier moves to stretch existing supplies include cutting down production of flour to a single grade with an extraction rate approaching 85 percent. Also the government ordered millers to accept for milling wheat normally classed as feed grade.

In order to conserve stocks of millet for consumption within the country, exportation of this grain has been prohibited, despite some unfilled export contracts. The millet crop was large, and it is believed that up to 150,000 metric tons (about 6.5 million bushels) may be available for admixing with wheat for consumption. From the standpoint of price there is no incentive since millet is currently selling for the same price as wheat delivered to the mills.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERCOTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS  
ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1952	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equiv. US¢ a lb. Spot quo- tation	Export & inter- mediate taxes
<u>Alexandria</u>		Kantar				
Ashmouni, FG.....	5-1	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	80.50	46.78	11.62
Ashmouni, Good.....	"	"	"	66.50	38.65	11.62
Ashmouni, FGF.....	"	"	"	57.50	33.42	11.62
Karnak, FG.....	"	"	"	141.50	82.23	11.62
Karnak, Good.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)		
Karnak, FGF.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)		
<u>Bombay</u>		Candy				
Jarila, Fine.....	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 600.00	16.10	10.73
Broach Vijay, Fine....	"	"	"	2/ 775.00	20.80	10.73
<u>Karachi</u>		Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine....	4-30	82.28 lbs.	"	90.50	33.18	13.85
289F Sind, SG, Fine....	"	"	"	92.00	33.73	13.85
289F Punjab, SG, Fine..	"	"	"	96.00	35.20	13.85
<u>Izmir</u>		Kilogram				
Acala I.....	5-1	2.2046 lbs.	Kurus	3/ 280.00	45.36	-----
Acala II.....	"	"	"	3/ 250.00	40.50	-----
<u>Adana</u>						
Acala I.....	"	"	"	3/ 237.00	38.39	-----
<u>Lima</u>		Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2....	4-29	101.4 lbs.	Sol	497.00	32.01	7.85
Tanguis, Type 5.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)		
Pima, Type 1.....	"	"	"	590.00	38.00	12.91
<u>Recife</u>		Arroba				
Mata, Type 4.....	5-1	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	300.00	49.36	2.4% ad
Sertao, Type 4.....	"	"	"	4/ 350.00	57.58	valorem
<u>Sao Paulo</u>						
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	4-30	"	"	257.00	42.28	3.0% ad
<u>Torreón</u>		Sp. quintal				valorem
Middling, 15/16".....	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	243.00	27.72	5.49
<u>Houston-Galveston-New</u>						
Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	5-1	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	38.12	-----

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Reported 600.00 to 625.00 (16.77). Ceiling 820.00 (22.01).

2/ Reported 775.00 to 795.00 (21.34). Ceiling 925.00 (24.82).

3/ Prices received too late for inclusion in last week's table: Izmir, April 24, 1952, in kurus per kilogram with U.S. cents per pound in parentheses, Acala I, 275.00 (44.55); Acala II, 250.00 (40.50); Adana, Acala I, 252.00 (40.82).

4/ Nominal.



## FRENCH COTTON CONSUMPTION DECLINES SOMEWHAT IN FEBRUARY 1952

Consumption of cotton in France in February 1952 amounted to 112,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), somewhat less than the 123,000 bales consumed in the previous month, according to Frederick R. Mangold of the American Embassy staff, Paris. Consumption in both of these months, however, was higher than the 108,000 bales consumed in December 1951.

Since the early part of 1952 many mills have been reported to be working only 20 to 30 hours a week instead of a normal 40 hours or more. This reduction in mill activity is probably responsible for the drop in consumption from January to February. The continued lack of demand for cotton textiles is expected to result in some further reduction in consumption in the coming months. A government order of February 20, 1952, which made it necessary to obtain a license for all imports after that date, may aid the French cotton industry by limiting the quantities of imported cloth that compete with domestic goods for the local market.

Consumption of cotton during the period August 1951 through February 1952, the first 7 months of the 1951-52 season, totaled 784,000 bales, 11 percent above the 706,000 bales consumed in the corresponding months of 1950-51.

Imports of cotton into France during the first 7 months of 1951-52 amounted to 788,000 bales, substantially exceeding the 532,000 bales imported in the same period of the preceding season. During the current season cotton imported from the United States has amounted to 273,000 bales, compared with the 265,000 bales originating in this country during the first 7 months of 1950-51. Imports from Mexico have increased greatly from a total of about 30,000 bales during the entire 1950-51 season to 155,000 bales thus far in 1951-52. Most of the remaining 350,000 bales imported in 1951-52 were obtained from French colonies, Egypt, Turkey, and Brazil. Substantial quantities are still expected to arrive from Mexico.

The cotton stock position has continued to improve in France with imports running above consumption. By the end of February stocks amounted to 307,000 bales, the highest level attained since the beginning of the current season and equivalent to almost 3-months' supply at the current rate of consumption.

## OUTLOOK FOR SYRIAN COTTON PRODUCTION IN 1952-53

Preliminary forecasts of the area planted to cotton in Syria for the 1952-53 crop range from 250,000 to 370,000 acres, considerably below the 450,000 acres harvested during the current season, according to J. Forrest Crawford, Agricultural Attache, and M. Bekhash of the American Legation staff, Damascus. The decrease in acreage is attributable to several causes, including government limitation for the first time of officially authorized cotton area. A sharp decline in prices since the end of 1951 and poor yields from the 1951-52 crop resulting mainly from heavy insect damage also have discouraged some of the Syrian farmers from growing cotton again in



the coming season. In addition, late winter rains delayed preparation of soil and planting which had to be completed by April 30 under a recent governmental decree. However, the heavy rains combined with normal winter snowfall have provided an adequate supply of water for those areas growing cotton under irrigation.

The Syrian Government has taken a great deal of interest in the cultivation of cotton in recent months. In addition to limiting the cotton acreage and setting a final planting date as mentioned above, an Office of Cotton is being established within the Ministry of Agriculture. This Office will be responsible for control of ginning, for inspection, treatment, and fumigation of the seed for planting for breeding and multiplication of cotton strains best suited to Syria and for the establishment of a cotton classification system. The government has also authorized the import of cotton insecticides and the necessary equipment for their proper application in an effort to prevent a repetition of the damage caused by insects to the 1951-52 crop.

Despite the reduction in acreage in the forthcoming season, the experience gained with cotton cultivation in 1951-52 combined with improved insect control is expected to result in increased yields and estimates of the 1952-53 crop range as high as 320,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross). The most recent unofficial estimate of the 1951-52 crop placed production at 207,000 bales.

Exports of cotton from Syria during the 6 months July through December 1951 amounted to 53,000 bales, slightly less than the 58,000 bales exported in the same period of 1950. During January 1952 almost 39,000 bales were exported, bringing total exports to 92,000 bales in the period July 1951 through January 1952. The most important destinations for Syrian cotton in this 7-month period were in Europe, with 43,000 bales shipped to France, 24,000 bales to the United Kingdom, and 5,000 bales to Italy. About 12,000 bales were exported to Lebanon during this same period.

#### FATS AND OILS

##### INDIA'S 1951-52 CASTOR BEAN SITUATION

The official estimates of acreage and production of India's 1951-52 castor bean crop has been reported by R.M. Taylor, American Consul General, Madras, at 1,423,000 acres and 116,500 short tons, respectively. Current output is at the same level as the revised 1950-51 crop of 116,500 tons, although area was up slightly from the 1,378,000 acres sown last season.

Trade sources believe India has an exportable surplus of 56,000 tons of castor beans. To conserve the oilcake in the country, and, at the same time, utilize the crushing capacity already established, the Government will continue to encourage export of castor oil rather than castor beans.

The Government imposed export-quota restrictions on castor beans and oil early in January for the January-June 1952 licensing period. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, February 18, 1952, page 128, "India Imposes Sharp Quota on Castor Exports.") Effective April 1, 1952, the

stipulation regarding the condition that a specified volume of the quota for castor oil granted to established exporters for January-June 1952 should be valid for shipment to Australia only was withdrawn. In other words, the balance quantity available with exporters on April 1, 1952, out of the quota for January-June 1952 may be exported to any permissible destination. The quota granted for dollar areas will not be affected and will be valid for export to dollar areas only.

During the calendar year 1951 castor bean and oil exports amounted to 12,171 and 29,847 tons, respectively. Converted to a bean equivalent basis, using India's average extraction rate of 38 percent, exports during the year equaled 90,700 tons. In 1950 exports of 80,651 tons of castor beans and 22,365 of castor oil represented the equivalent of 139,500 tons of beans.

Castor bean stocks on January 1, 1952, are estimated at 28,000 tons. Oil stocks on the same date amounted to about 3,300 tons.

A local trade journal states that about 10,000 tons of castor oil is expected to be exported during January-June 1952. Business for 6,300 tons has been placed with the United Kingdom and other European countries, Australia, and the United States at about £210 to £242 per long ton (\$503-\$605 per short ton) for top grade oil, and £195 to £220 (\$487-\$550) for commercial grade oil.

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S VEGETABLE OIL SITUATION, 1951

The principal sources of vegetable oils in the Dominican Republic are peanuts and coconuts. Production of peanuts in 1951 totaled 22,460 short tons, or 13 percent greater than the 1950 harvest of 19,840 tons, reports G.W. Tripp, American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo. The area planted to peanuts in 1951 (56,020 acres) exceeded the 1950 acreage (55,620) by less than one percent, but the average yield per acre increased from 714 to 804 pounds. Oil produced from the 1951 crop totaled 4,220 tons, an increase of almost one-half from 1950, mainly the result of increased factory facilities.

The 1951 harvest of coconuts amounted to 23.1 million nuts, an increase of 38 percent from the revised 1950 total of 16.7 million. New plantings of coconut palms in 1951 covered 6,680 acres or 70 percent of the area planted during 1950. In spite of the larger harvest in 1951, production of coconut oil was only 530 tons, compared with 830 tons in 1950 and 700 tons in 1949.

Small quantities of sesame are grown annually in the Republic. Although no official production statistics are available, output in 1951 is estimated at about 60 tons, continuing a decline registered since 1948 when 110 tons were produced.

With the exception of insignificant exports, all of the vegetable oil produced in the Dominican Republic is consumed within the country. Exports of sesame seed amounted to only 14 tons, almost all to Puerto Rico, while over 90 percent of 1.6 million coconuts exported in 1951 went to the United States.



## NEWFOUNDLAND HOPES FOR HIGH OUTPUT OF SEAL OIL

Following a successful year of sealing in 1951--when some 620,000 Imperial gallons of seal oil was produced, or 60 percent more than in 1950--a slightly greater number of sealing vessels from Newfoundland started out for the sealing grounds early in March, reports Horatio Mooers, American Consul General, St. John's. In addition to the 14 Newfoundland vessels, carrying some 700 men, there were 11 Norwegian and one French craft.

Most of the Newfoundland sealers were to go to the so-called "Northern Front" area along with some 3 or 4 vessels from Halifax and 2 from Norway. The Newfoundland sealing interests chartered a plane to do "spotting" from the air, a most advantageous form of assistance in hunting.

An agreement between the Canadian and Norwegian governments had been reached earlier on March 5 as the opening date for killing seals in the Gulf, and March 10 on the Northern Front. However, a closing date had not yet been decided.

A problem which has caused some concern among Newfoundland sealing interests, and which ultimately will require settlement, is the competition from Norwegian vessels in Newfoundland waters. Newfoundland sealers contend that foreign craft should not be permitted to take seals within the 3-mile limit.

There is a real need for restrictions on the rate of killing seals in the Newfoundland area, according to officials of the Fisheries Council of Canada. It states that killings seem "definitely more than the present seal population can stand indefinitely." The kill in 1951 is estimated to have been more than twice the average number killed in 1947-50. Should it be proved after further aerial studies that the seal population is being reduced, then the need for a Canadian-Norwegian agreement to limit the annual kill would seem to be established.

Prices for seal fat in 1952 have changed little from 1951. Last year young Hoods brought in terms of Canadian currency \$10.00 per hundredweight, Harps \$9.00, Bedlamers \$5.50, and old Harps and old Hoods \$4.50 per hundredweight.

Sealing operations in 1951 were the most successful in many years. A total of about 440,000 seals was taken by ships from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Norway.

Sealing activities in Newfoundland have had a hard, uphill fight for survival in recent years. Costs of outfitting sealing vessels have soared. Thus, smaller craft with less storage space and reduced living quarters have replaced the larger old-style vessels. Consequently, the crews of the newer vessels are necessarily smaller, and the carrying capacity more restricted. Moreover, crews are less eager to go out to the iceflows, preferring the more lucrative and less hazardous occupations ashore.

FRENCH MOROCCO DOUBLES  
FLAXSEED OUTPUT IN 1951

Production of flaxseed in French Morocco has been placed at 1,236,000 bushels in 1951, almost double that of 1950, but still less than half the record 1949 crop of 2,383,000 bushels, reports E. L. Stanger, American Consulate, Rabat. Area sown to flaxseed in 1951 totaled 187,800 acres against 145,800 in the previous year.

Of the total flaxseed crop, about one-half was crushed locally, producing from 5,500 to 6,500 short tons of linseed oil. During 1951 linseed oil exports amounted to 2,808 tons, of which 2,248 tons was taken by France. The remainder of the oil, except for about 550 tons for local consumption, probably will be exported by the end of May 1952. Approximately 475,000 bushels of seed was available for export, of which 155,267 bushels was exported during 1951, principally to France, and the remainder probably will be shipped to France during the first half of 1952.

The local price of flaxseed on the Casablanca wholesale market in early 1951 was 7,000 francs per quintal (\$5.08 per bushel). With the new harvest, the price dropped to a low of 6,400 francs in July (\$4.64) but rose gradually to about 8,000 francs (\$5.81) at the end of 1951.

Sunflower and safflower, the only important oilseeds produced for edible oil, decreased during the 1951 crop year. Sunflower seed output amounted to 7,165 tons against 8,265 tons (revised) in 1950. Production of safflower seed amounted to 2,200 tons compared with 2,750 tons (revised) in the preceding season. In addition, from 1,000-2,000 tons of cottonseed was produced in 1951, more than double the 1950 output. Crushing of these oilseeds will produce only 2,700-2,800 tons of edible oil or about 10 percent of average annual local requirements.

Castor bean production in 1951 may have approximated 350 tons. Area sown was 4,450 acres. An earlier estimate had forecast a crop near 1,000 tons.

According to the Protectorate's Bureau of Fats and Oils, local consumption of vegetable oils (excluding olive oil) during 1951 totaled approximately 40,000 tons of which 28,500 tons was refined edible oils for table use, margarine and for fish canning, and 11,500 tons consisted of inedible oils, mainly for soap manufacture.

During 1951, an unusual volume of unrefined vegetable oils was imported into French Morocco, with total imports amounting to 23,324 tons against 11,113 tons during 1950. Imports included 3,535 tons of soybean oil (all from the United States), 5,237 tons of sunflower seed oil, and 10,280 tons of peanut oil (7,832 from French West Africa). Vegetable oilseeds were imported at about the same rate as 1950, with less emphasis on peanuts, and more on soybeans. Total imports of oilseeds amounted to 30,417 tons, consisting mainly of 9,616 tons of shelled peanuts (9,405 originating in French West Africa) and 11,354 tons of soybeans (all from China).



Local Government sources state that requirements of edible vegetable oils (other than olive oil) for 1952 will not exceed 24,000 tons, since it is expected that at least 16,500 tons of olive oil will be available for local consumption this year. The average annual requirement of around 11,000 tons of inedible oils also may be reduced in view of the increased availability of inedible olive oil.

In view of the reasonably satisfactory local prices for flaxseed and linseed oil and the traditional place which flaxseed cultivation holds in local crop rotation, it may be expected that this crop will continue on an average of about 200,000 acres. Continued cultivation of other oilseeds appears less certain, except for cottonseed and castor beans, production of which is likely to increase.

Because of the large olive oil output in 1952, the edible oil situation in French Morocco is described as excellent, and no difficulty is expected in meeting local requirements.

#### PERU'S VEGETABLE OIL OUTPUT INCREASES IN 1951

Peru's production of vegetable oils in 1951 consisted entirely of an estimated 31,640 short tons of cottonseed oil, an increase of more than one-half from the 1950 output of 20,510 tons, reports R. O. Westley, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Lima. Small quantities of peanuts and sunflower seed are grown, but production of these crops has not reached commercial proportions. Most promising of the new crops in Peru is the African oil palm, and any prospect for greatly increased vegetable oil production from domestic materials may be dependent upon its culture. In 1951, Peru produced some 10,300 tons of vegetable lard.

There are no exports of either vegetable or animal fats from Peru. Imports of vegetable oils in 1951, about half the volume imported in 1950, totaled 1,926 tons, of which 1,178 tons were edible. Lard and tallow imports amounted to 4,668 and 2,694 tons, respectively, compared with corresponding imports in 1950 of 7,367 and 5,259 tons.

Cottonseed oil will continue to hold the spotlight in Peru's vegetable oil production for several years. With prospects for a large cotton crop in 1952, local output of both edible and industrial oils probably will hold imports somewhere near the level of 1951.

SOUTH AFRICA'S OILSEED  
OUTPUT REDUCED BY DROUGHT

Preliminary estimates of vegetable oilseed production in the Union of South Africa places the 1951-52 outturn at about 129,650 short tons, a decrease of 10 percent from the 144,150 tons (revised) produced during the previous season, reports C. H. Marks, American Embassy, Pretoria. The long Union-wide drought (mid-December 1951 to end-February 1952) wrought extensive damage to all crops but particularly affected peanut and sunflower seed yields.

The first official estimate for the 1951-52 peanut crop is 73,000 tons, compared with the record 83,000-ton output in 1950-51. Reduced yields more than offset the increase in the 1951-52 planted acreage. Only the irrigated area of Vaal-Hartz, which grows approximately 16 percent of South Africa's peanuts, will show production increases proportionate to extended plantings. Over 90 percent of the peanuts produced in the Union are grown by European farmers. The small proportion of the total crop produced by natives comes from the Eastern Transvaal lowveld where from 5,000-7,000 tons per year are grown.

The 1951-52 sunflower seed output is unofficially estimated at 37,500 tons. Drought conditions affected this crop even more seriously than peanuts, and although the 1951-52 acreage was equal to that for 1950-51, production decreased by one-third.

The preliminary 1951-52 cottonseed estimate is 10,000 tons. This compares favorably with the estimated 5,850 tons produced during the preceding year. The soybean crop may reach 53,000-57,000 bushels, a substantial increase from the past 2 seasons in spite of prevailing drought conditions.

Castor bean production is unofficially estimated at between 7,000-8,000 tons, about double the estimated 4,000 tons produced in 1950-51. Interest in castor bean cultivation has increased considerably in the past 3 years because the pre-planting price has been guaranteed and the plant is hardy and resistant to drought.

The consumption of edible oils in the Union is keeping pace with the domestic production of peanuts and sunflower seed. Cottonseed is entirely consumed locally. Oilcake for animal feed is considered by some factories the most important product with edible oil of secondary importance. Utilization of the 1950-51 peanut crop was approximately as follows: 66,000 tons for oil expressing purposes; 10,000 tons as food; and 7,000 tons for seed. Almost all of the sunflower seed is crushed, a small portion being ear-marked for seed.

South Africa has become self-sufficient in edible oil production and relatively little is imported. Receipts of linseed, coconut, and palm oils were approximately the same levels as in 1950 while imports of castor oil declined almost two-thirds. Exports of sunflower seed,

and corn oils, from the Union dropped to about half that of 1950, but of peanut oil in 1951 remained about the same as in the preceding year.

Wholesale prices for 1952 have been fixed at £55 per ton (\$154) for peanuts and £21.15.0 (\$60.90) for sunflower seed. Oil expressors have guaranteed £35 (\$98) for soybeans. These prices remained unchanged from 1951.

Beginning with the 1952-53 season the marketing of peanuts and sunflower seeds will be under the provisions of the Marketing Act of 1937 and through the Oilseeds Control Board (see Foreign Crops and Markets of April 21, 1952, page 360). Heretofore marketing of these oilseeds was controlled by the Directorate of Food Supplies and Distribution.

### LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

#### BRAZIL PERMITS LICENSE-EXEMPT IMPORTATION OF CHICKS AND HATCHING EGGS

Day-old chicks and eggs for incubating were recently placed on the list of items that may be imported into Brazil without previous license. However, the exporter must first secure an exchange quota certificate from a qualified Brazilian importer which he must present to a Brazilian Consul for legalization, together with other required documents.

Day-old chicks and hatching eggs were included on the list of commodities, considered of prime necessity and exempt from previous import license, published officially by the Brazilian Government in late January 1952.

The Brazilian import duty on eggs is 0.84 cruzeiro per legal kilo. This amounts to approximately \$1.20 per case of 58 pounds. <sup>1/</sup> The amount of the import duty on baby chicks is not clear, although it seems probable that an ad valorem rate of 20 percent of the value may apply. Both items are also subject to a surtax of 10 percent of the duty and a social security tax of 2 percent of the value.

United States exports of eggs (including some for hatching), valued at nearly 14 million dollars in 1951, and of live poultry (including chicks), valued at 1.4 million dollars, were shipped principally to Cuba, Venezuela and Mexico. Exports of these items to Brazil have so far been negligible.

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<sup>1/</sup> At the official rate of about 5.4 U. S. cents per cruzeiro.



VENEZUELAN CAPITAL'S FLUID MILK SUPPLY  
REACHES NEW RECORD

Milk receipts at the pasteurization plant in Caracas, Venezuela broke all monthly records in March. Receipts were 5,857 thousand pounds. In March of 1951 receipts were 3,951 thousand pounds, according to J. H. Kempton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Caracas.

March is ordinarily one of the low months for fluid milk, being at the end of the dry season when pastures are at their worst. The good milk months are May, June and July. Evidently the fluid milk subsidy is producing results, even though as usual the payments are again well in arrears and have not been made for February and March. Fluid milk receipts at Caracas totaled over 50 million pounds in 1951, an increase of nearly 24 percent over the 40.5 million pounds received in 1950.

Local milk supplies are still inadequate, especially during the dry season, although at times during the flush season receipts exceed the quantity that can be sold at the retail price of nearly 30 cents per quart. Most of the city's milk continues to be supplied from imported dry whole milk which retails in the "free" markets at about 60 cents per one-pound can for milk of 26 percent fat and can be reconstituted in the home for about half the cost of pasteurized milk. A reliquefied milk drink combining imported United States nonfat dry milk with vegetable oils is being sold in paper bottles in this market at the same price as pasteurized milk.

Venezuelan imports of preserved milks (much of it dry whole milk) amounted to nearly 65 million pounds (gross weight) in 1951 compared with about 67 million pounds in 1950 and about 60 million pounds in 1949. While United States was still the predominant supplier in 1951, significant quantities also were imported from Canada, the Netherlands and Denmark.



